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KYIV BREACHES RUSSIAN LINES IN THE SOUTH OF UKRAINE, TOP GENERAL SAYS

Ukraine's army has made notable breakthrough in the Russian lines in the Zaporizhzhia area, Gen Oleksandr Tarnavskiy said in an interview

'RUSSIA ON BACKFOOT AT ROBOTYNE VILLAGE'

Gen Tarnavskiy, leading the southern offensive, declared strategic victory by recapturing the southern village of Robotyne. This victory comes at a time when Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been facing criticism for Kyiv's counteroffensive that has made slower gains than expected. "We are now between the first and second defensive lines," Tarnavskiy claimed | P11

MOSCOW REDEPLOYING TROOPS TO THE AREA

- Kyiv started its counteroffensive in the area in June and had to spend more time on demining the area. Last year under Tarnavskiy, Ukraine took back the southern city Kherson from Russia
- Russia is redeploying troops to this area from other parts of Ukraine. However, Kyiv believes it will be harder for Moscow to press ahead

2,80,000

MOSCOW HAS RECRUITED THAT MANY SOLDIERS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CALENDAR YEAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

BJP targets I.N.D.I.A over Udhaya's Sanatana Dharma remarks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Jaipur/New Delhi/Chennai

BJP leaders on Sunday took aim at Tamil Nadu sports minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, accusing him of "insulting Sanatana Dharma" and used the opportunity to target the I.N.D.I.A alliance, of which DMK is a part. While the BJP's TN unit wrote to the governor seeking action against the DMK youth wing chief, an activist filed a police complaint against him in Delhi.

Union home minister Amit Shah, speaking in Rajasthan at a rally, lashed out at the I.N.D.I.A alliance and accused the DMK and its ally, the Congress, of insulting Sanatana Dharma for vote bank politics.

On Saturday, Udhayanidhi, speaking at an event, said Sanatana Dharma is against social justice and should be eradicated. Comparing it to dengue, mosquitoes and Corona, he said a few things cannot be merely opposed but must be abolished. On Sunday, he said he stood by his remarks, clarifying on X (formerly Twitter) that he had not called for genocide against anyone as alleged by BJP's Amit Malviya.

Shah slammed the minister, son of TN chief minister MK Stalin, and alleged that his remarks indicated the Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc "hates Hinduism" and is "an assault on our heritage". He attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, claiming Rahul had earlier termed Hindu organisations as 'more dangerous' than Lashkar-e-Taiba.

"For the last two days I.N.D.I.A alliance is insulting Sanatana Dharma. Leaders of DMK and Congress are talking about ending Sanatana Dharma just for vote bank politics. This is not the first time they have insulted our Sanatana Dharma. Before this, Manmohan Singh also said the first right on the budget is for the minorities, but we say that the first right is for the poor, tribals, Dalits and backwards. Today, the Congress says that if Modi ji will win, Sanatana will rule."

BJP president J P Nadda in Bhopal too urged the people to reject the opposition grouping, which is spreading "hatred, poison and attacking the country's culture and tradition".

For his part, Udhayanidhi on X said he is willing to confront any challenges that may come his way. "I never called for the genocide of people who are following Sanatan Dharma. Sanatan Dharma is a principle that divides people in the name of caste and religion," he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaking at the inauguration of 'Parivartan Sankalp Yatra', in Dungarpur on Sunday | PTI

No clarity in I.N.D.I.A on PM face: HDD

Former PM HD Deve Gowda on Sunday said that the partners of the I.N.D.I.A alliance have no clarity and consensus over the prime ministerial candidate despite holding three meetings so far. P4

India will be a developed nation by 2047, says Modi

Takes a jab at previous govts, says they didn't recognise people's potential

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

A week before he is set to host world leaders at the G20 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has exuded confidence that India will become a developed nation by 2047, when there will be no place for corruption, casteism and communalism.

"The *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas* model that has shown the way in India can also be a guiding principle for the welfare of the world," he said in an interview to a news agency.

PM Modi said India's economic growth is a natural byproduct of his nine-year-old government's political stability as well as the government's trust in people. "Irrespective of the size of the GDP, every voice matters," he said in his interview to PTI.

Taking a jibe at the previous UPA government on many issues, the PM said the Congress-led government had no faith in people's potential.

He said India is poised to become the third biggest economy. "For a long time in world history, India was one of the top economies of the world. Later, due to the impact of colonisation of various kinds, our global footprint was reduced. But, now India is again on the rise. The speed with which we jumped five spots, from the 10th largest economy to the fifth largest in less than a decade has conveyed the fact that India means business," Modi asserted.

Citing the country's jump in the number of unicorns, Modi said India is now the third largest start-up hub in the world. As for the Indian space sector, he said the world has acknowledged India's contribution.

In his reply to a query on India's backing for inclusion of Africa in G20, he said Africa is a top priority for New Delhi and that India works for the inclusion of those whose voices are not being heard.

US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Saudi Arabia's King Mohammed bin Salman, and other leaders will gather at the newly constructed Bharat Mandapam conference hall in Delhi on September 9-10 for the pre-eminent annual meeting of developing and developed countries.

"Many positive impacts are coming out of India's G20 Presidency. Some of them are very close to my heart," Modi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi | PTI

Freebie culture may extract a price: PM

Taking a dig at the freebie culture, Modi said, "Populism may give political results in the short term but will extract a great social and economic price in the long term. Those who suffer consequences the most are often the poorest and the most vulnerable."

PM should also talk about jobs, inflation: Oppn

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

THE Opposition on Sunday lashed out at the remarks made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an interview.

Leaders of the Opposition Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A), questioned the government's track record in fighting unemployment and curbing the rise in prices of essential commodities.

Congress MP Ranjeet Ranjan said, "Roads are being decorated in view of the G20 Summit, but what about the unemployment issue?" She said: "India's youth ask about employment and they want answers on it from the government".

In the same way, AAP MP Sanjay Singh made a sharp attack on the PM's claims on various issues saying, "Under PM Modi, unemployment reached its highest level in 42 years and prices of fuel and medicines have increased considerably".

Congress leader Shobha Oza said that under the current government, the lives of common people have become difficult due to rising inflation and unemployment. Reacting to the PM's remarks that his government has brought political stability, DMK leader T K S Elangovan said, "There is no political stability and equanimity in this country at present".

TIME FOR G-21

AFRICAN UNION LIKELY TO BECOME 21ST MEMBER OF G20

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

THE African Union (AU) is likely to become a member of the Group of 20 (G20) largest economies with India, which holds the G20 chair, proposing its inclusion ahead of the September 9-10 summit.

With the AU's inclusion, the bloc will become G21. Supporting the AU's inclusion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said, "No plan for the future of the planet can be successful without the representation and recognition of all voices".

"Africa is a top priority for us even within the G20. One of the first things we did during our G20 Presidency was to hold the 'Voice of the Global South' summit, which had enthusiastic participation from Africa," Modi said.

"There is a need to come out of a purely utilitarian worldview and embrace a Sarva Jana Hitaaya, Sarva Jana Sukhaaya (for the welfare of all, for the happiness of all) model," he added.

The AU has 55 member countries. However, not everyone in the AU is excited about India's push to get them to G20.

"Africa is a large continent and the challenges, economy and communities are very diverse. In that context, we feel that this inclusion in the G20 would not translate into anything for us in the literal sense. The Voice of the Global South must be heard but the inclusion in G20 would not help in addressing the concerns. We are grateful for India to consider including us though," said a representative of an African country.

Sudan is at present caught in a civil war that has displaced 4.8 million people. In Rwanda, several opposition leaders have been jailed. Countries like Morocco and Algeria are embroiled in territorial disputes.

"AU is not a politically cohesive unit. There are issues that countries are facing on their own and with each other. Besides, there are eight regional economic committees which have developed individually with differing structures," a source said.

Preparation works underway at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi ahead of the G-20 summit on Sunday | PTI

More taluks to be declared drought-hit? 2nd survey on

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

THE number of taluks to be declared drought-hit may go up as the state government has taken up a second survey to assess the situation on the ground. In the meantime, the government has called a meeting on Monday, where it is expected to come out with the list of districts that have been affected by drought-like conditions.

The second survey report is likely to be ready in a week to ten days, said Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda.

According to the data by Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC), 121 taluks are facing a deficit in rainfall, ranging between 20 and 59 per cent since the beginning of monsoon (July 1) till date. But the government has stated that rain deficit alone cannot be the factor to declare an area drought-affected and teams of officials visit many villages in each district to assess crop failure and rain deficit and then prepare ground truth reports.

Byregowda, who is chairing the Monday meeting, said the ground truth survey was conducted on a certain number of taluks on August 18. "Officials will compile and submit the report. We might announce a certain number of taluks drought hit on Monday. There is also a thinking that the list should be brought to the notice of the cabinet subcommittee members and Chief Minister Siddaramiah on whether it should be taken up before the cabinet before making the announcement. We will decide this on Monday," he told The New Indian Express.

On the second list, he said, "It is based on the August 31 report, and will take another week to ten days to be completed. Only after compiling the list, will we get a clearer picture on the number of taluks hit by drought."

CONTINUED ON: P4

Man stops youth from eve-teasing daughter, killed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a shocking incident, a 41-year-old man, who questioned a youth for eve-teasing his minor daughter, was stabbed to death at Shantinagar in Ashoknagar police limits on Saturday night.

The police have arrested the accused, Zaheed (22), who works at an electrical shop, for murder.

The deceased, Anwar Hussain, was a goods vehicle driver. Both the victim and the accused were living near Nanjappa Circle in Shantinagar.

CONTINUED ON: P3

EXPRESS READ

H D Kumaraswamy discharged from hosp

Bengaluru: JDS leader and former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy, who suffered a mild stroke on August 30, was discharged from hospital on Sunday | P4

Tomato prices ease after peaking for two months

Kolar: Peaking at ₹150/kg over a two-month period, tomato farmers last week sold the vegetable for far less at the Kolar APMC market, at ₹5-16/kg | P5

Rover asleep, ISRO will try to wake it up after 14 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

INDIA's successful Chandrayaan-3 Mission to the Moon's south pole has come to an end. The scientists switched off the Pragyaan rover on Saturday night after it completed its two-week assignment conducting various experiments and travelling 100 metres in the south polar region, said the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The space agency hopes to wake up the rover after 14 days when the lunar night is over on September 22, 2023.

A view of the Pragyaan rover on the lunar surface | PIC CREDIT: ISRO

"It is now safely parked and set into Sleep mode. APXS (Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer) and LIBS (Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscope) payloads are turned off. Data from these payloads is transmitted to the Earth via the Lander," informed ISRO on platform X. P5

Teacher asks students to 'go to Pakistan', transferred

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

A woman teacher at the Government Urdu Higher Primary School here was transferred for allegedly asking Muslim students in her class 'to go to Pakistan'. Sources said the teacher allegedly made the objectionable remarks on August 30 after some students in Class 6 quarrelled even after she repeatedly asked them not to create noise in the class.

The teacher, Manjula Devi, taught Kannada at the school at Tipu Nagar in the city. Block Education Officer Nagaraj P told reporters that she was transferred after conducting a departmental inquiry.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Asia Cup Super Four matches may be shifted out of Colombo

FIROZ MIRZA @ Pallekele

THE Super Four stage of the ongoing 2023 Asia Cup could be rescheduled and shifted out of Colombo due to inclement weather. It is learnt that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) raised the issue with the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) keeping the weather forecast of Colombo for next few days in mind.

"The India-Pakistan match scheduled in Pallekele had to be called off due to rain. The forecast is the same in Colombo which made the PCB to raise the issue with the ACC and SLC on Saturday," a PCB source keeping a track of developments told this daily. The PCB source said the SLC is looking for a relatively dry venue and Dambulla could be one of them. Even Hambantota is being discussed for the purpose.

The Super Four stage begins on September 6 in Lahore. The remaining five Super Four matches and final on September 17 are scheduled in Colombo.

"It was ACC's decision to host a major part of the tournament in Sri Lanka. Now they have to chalk out alternate plans to make sure matches are not washed off. They will come back to us in a day or two after which a final decision will be taken," added the PCB source.

The India-Nepal match will go as per schedule as there is no time to shift the game. Abandonment of the match between India and Pakistan meant the latter qualified for Super Four stage from Group A. P13

TODAY'S MATCH: INDIA VS NEPAL @ PALLEKELE FROM 3PM

Law ministry discusses agenda for Kovind panel on simultaneous polls

SHRUTI KAKKAR @New Delhi

LAW ministry officials on Sunday met former President and chairman of the committee on simultaneous polls Ram Nath Kovind to understand how he would like to set the agenda for the panel.

Law secretary Niten Chandra and legislative secretary Reeta Vasishtha were among the officials who met Kovind on Sunday, sources said, adding that the committee has commenced functioning and will give its recommendation at the earliest.

The government had formed an eight-member committee headed by the former president on Saturday. The other members of the panel include Union home minister Amit Shah, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Finance Commission chairman N K Singh, Constitution expert Subhash C Kashyap, senior advocate Harish Salve, and former Chief Vigilance Commissioner Sanjay Kothari.

The panel was formed immediately after the government announced a special Parliament session. However, the government's decision to form a committee on simultaneous polls has received flak from opposition parties. Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has declined to be part of the panel.